

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT

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Question of War between the USSR and the  
Western Powers

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1. A conflict between the USSR and the United States is inevitable. The propaganda campaigns conducted against the USSR in the United States and the other capitalist countries give the distinct impression that the Western Powers want to engage in an armed conflict with the USSR. The economic and social conditions of the capitalist countries are such that in order to solve the very serious problems which keep the masses in a state of agitation, the men in power want to make war on the USSR because this would present their only means of justifying the conditions of the capitalist economy. The Western Powers will accuse the USSR of having closed the markets of the Eastern Powers and thus caused the crises and unemployment which agitate the masses of Western workers. They will claim that the USSR is responsible for all the unrest and will say that the war against the USSR is the only method of resolving the situation.
2. The United States is guilty of malevolence in its promotion of a meeting between Truman and Stalin. Stalin has repeatedly made proposals that he and Truman meet for a very open discussion and exchange of views for the purpose of defining respective spheres of influence and reciprocal commitments of non-interference. In reply the United States has always refused these invitations, or else has fixed preliminary conditions which no self-respecting government could accept. It is a fact that the United States must not interfere with Soviet affairs, and this holds especially in the area of the Black Sea.

3. [redacted] it is for the above-mentioned reasons that the USSR is forced to conclude that an armed conflict with the United States is inevitable. And it will be the United States that attacks first and starts the active war. [redacted]

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However, while the Western governments are anxiously preparing both militarily and psychologically for the coming war, the USSR, which is peace-minded, is relying heavily on the desire for peace of the Western peoples, who are demonstrating their dissatisfaction with the war ~~longer~~ policy of their leaders. Among the forces desirous of preventing war, one can cite the demonstrations against the unloading of American arms.

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the work of the Partisans of Peace movements, which are spreading throughout the world, including India and Australia, and the desire which politicians of diverse tendencies (not only Communists) have shown to exert pressure on the leaders in international politics to prevent war.

4. [redacted] incidents which might occur as a result of American provocation in zones which the USSR considers vital to her defense will not lead directly to war because the Western nations have not reached the necessary level of military preparation. Also, the growing hostility against war among the Western working masses will act as a restraint to their governments' desire for war. [redacted] the United States [redacted] may try [redacted] extortion and provocation, to which the USSR would respond readily and positively, since the USSR still has several trump cards in its hand. The USSR will rely on itself and on the progressive forces throughout the world to win the war, or at least to make sure that the imperialist governments will not win it. Regarding the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations to ease the international tension, [redacted] Mr. Trygve Lie is too closely tied to the United States to produce concrete and favorable results. 50X1-HUM
5. There has been a press campaign to disparage the Soviet system, to make the USSR appear to be a backward, barbaric nation which has made no great technical or scientific discoveries. This naturally causes a reaction in the opposite direction, so that the Soviets seek to vindicate the discoveries and progress of Russian scientists and scholars. It is not a question of nationalism but of prestige meant to impress those who criticize the Soviet Union.
6. It is true that a dictatorship exists in the USSR, but it is a necessity imposed by both the domestic and the international political situations. The West accuses the USSR of desiring to create dictatorships in the different countries through the various Communist parties, but the truth of the matter is that Communism will impose itself on all the countries in a form which will not have the slightest resemblance to the system used for the USSR. The countries of Central Europe and the East which have already joined the Communist system (and permanently, the Soviet diplomat adds, whatever the Western Powers may think or hope) have not had to bear half the sufferings endured by the Russians in developing the system. And if the system should extend itself to Western Europe [redacted] 50X1-HUM
7. If the international situation were otherwise, dictatorship would have ceased to exist in the USSR because there would no longer have been any reason for its existence. Eventually the dictatorship will undoubtedly disappear. Many Russians dislike the dictatorship system, but they understand the necessity for it in view of the international situation.
8. The Western Powers are fully aware of the fact that time is working in favor of the USSR and that the latter's power is gradually growing greater with the years. And the USSR realizes that the Western Powers want to strike against her before she can reach an ideal situation of power.
9. The war will probably not break out in Europe but in Asia, and specifically in India. The outbreak will come when the Indian peoples, in contact with revolutionary China, rise up against their British and American masters in order to obtain better living conditions and real independence. China will be obliged to intervene on behalf of the Indian people and this will lead to Soviet intervention. It is evident that a war in Asia will not limit itself to that area but will spread rapidly to Europe. The USSR must necessarily prevent the United States from maintaining its bases in Europe since they represent a danger too near the heart of the USSR.

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10. The war in Europe, however, will be only a war of diversion, for the war will be decided on American territory. This time the Americans will get a first-hand knowledge of war for the first time in their history, and they will become acquainted with it in such a way that they will lose all desire to wage war again. It would be extremely short-sighted of the USSR to wage war against Europe and Asia, which are under American influence, and not try to strike against the United States itself, since the United States is the only country which really wants war against the USSR and is preparing and inspiring it. Thus the USSR's principal objective will be the United States, and the real war with all the modern weapons will develop on the American continent.
11. The reason [redacted] the spark of war will be touched off in India is based on the fact of manpower. The Soviets believe that while war requires technical means in great quantities, it also requires large masses of men, and in the near future the USSR will undoubtedly have an unlimited manpower pool when the huge population of China is added to her 200 million inhabitants. Now if the United States and Great Britain should lose India, they would not have the supply of manpower which is indispensable to victory. Thus if the Western Powers see a serious threat against their manpower reserve, they will go to war. 50X1-HUM
12. A final indication of the inevitability of war is Germany. The Western Powers desire to see German imperialism rise again in all its former glory, and since the space for this expansion is lacking, and the Western Powers are not inclined to furnish it, they will once again push the Germans towards the East, promising them rich Russian territory.

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